preservation and conservation and have established a number of projected areas like national parks, sanctuaries and bio sphere reserves to prevent the loss of plant wealth.

(v) Special schemes for conservation of mangroves and wetlands have been initiated.

(vi) A beginning has been made to encourage rearing of threatened plants in well-established Botanic Gardens of different Universities.

(vii) Measures have been taken to create greater public awareness in favour of conservation of plant wealth.

Exploitation of biological resources by developed countries

235. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the protests raised by botanists from several Asian countries at the Botany 2000 Asia meet against the practice of exploitation biological resources by developed countries without any payment or benefit to the developing countries;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make any legislation to exercise control over the collection and export of biological material to extend support to indigenous evaluation of materials;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) to (d) Existing legislation like the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, Indian Forest Act 1927, Fisheries Act 1894, Territorial Waters, Continental Shelf, Exclusive Economic Zones and other Maritime Zones Act 1976, Import and Export (Control) Act 1947 (alongwith Import and Export Policy announced from year to year) Custom Act 1962, Marine Products Export Development Authority Act 1972, Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act 1937, Seeds Act 1966, etc. already provide for some degree of control over the collection and export of biological material.

However, after signing the Convention on Biological Diversity recently, action has been initiated to undertake a comprehensive review of the existing legislative framework relating to conservation of biological diversity, which would include access to and transfer of genetic resources.

Foreign aid for the second phase of Ganga Action Plan

236. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan is likely to be completed over the next five years with the aid of foreign fund;

(b) if so, the details of the second phase of the Ganga Action Plan alnogwith the foreign aid likely to be received; and

(c) whether all the projects in the first phase of the Action Plan have been fully implemented; if so, the net results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Schemes under the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) Phase II are being formulated. Details in this regard are being worked out. the Overseas Economic Cooperation fund (OECF), Government of Japan, have pledged a loan of Rs. 401 crores for Yamuna component of GAP Phase II.

(c) Under the first phase of the Ganga Action Plan, out of 261 sanctioned schemes, 192 schemes have been completed. There is improvement in the

quality of the river water in the towns where the schemes have been completed.

237. *[Transferred to the* 4th *December,* 1992]

Growth of forests

238. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India in conjunction with the respective State Governments have been able to achieve the targets fixed for the growth of forests during the Seventh Five Year Plan and if not. the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is a fact that eucalyptus tree required the maximum amount of water for its growth and survival and crops cannot be grown in about 10-15 feet from a eucalyptus tree;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cultivation of eucalyptus trees were promoted by the Forest Department during the 6th and 7th Five year Plans and handsome return was promised;

(d) whether it is also a fact that cultivation of eucalyptus has caused serious loss both in terms of damage to the crops as well as in term of money both to the State and the individual cultivator; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to compensate this loss to the farmers'?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The targets for the afforcstation/trec planting activities arc fixed on a year to year basis depending on the availability of funds in the CcntraKStatc Plans. An area of 8.8 million hectares as achieved during the Seventh Five Year Plan as against the target of 8.6 million hectares. The Vcarwisc and statewise targets and achievements arc given in Annexure. *[See* Appendix ccxv, Annexure No. 5].

(b) It is not a fact that compared to other trees eucalyptus trees require extra water for growth and survival. It is also not a fact that nothing can be grown under eucalyptus trees.

(c) to (e) Forest Departments of some States had taken up planting of eucalyptus trees during the earlier Five Year Plans. Large number of eucalyptus seedlings were produced in nurseries to meet the widespred demand of individual tree growers and farmers who expected very high returns from activity. In some of the states such a large scale plantation of eucalyptus trees by individuals resulted in abundant supply of eucalyptus wood in the market which tended to reduce the returns. However, the plantations were taken up by individuals on own initiative without any firm tie up with user agencies and, therefore, question of loss or compensation therefor does not arise.

Recommendations of the Committee to suggest on incentive package

239. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3823 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th August, 1992 and State:

(a) whether Government have since discussed with the State Government of the recommendations of the Committee constituted to suggest incentive package for shifting the Lime kilns from Dehra dun to Bcharigarh in Saharanpur, District;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The views of the State government on the suggestions made in the report were requested. They arc awaited.

(c) Docs not arise.